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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SILVER SPRING MAN SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE
PRESCRIPTION NARCOTICS AND CREDIT CARD FRAUD**

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that David Michael Larson, age 46, of Silver Spring, Maryland was sentenced today by the Honorable Deborah K. Chasanow to serve 37 months in prison followed by 3 years supervised release, and ordered to make \$48,470.52 in restitution, for conspiracy to distribute Oxycodone and Hydrocodone and for credit card fraud. Previously on April 17, 2003 Larson pled guilty to these offenses.

Beginning around the fall of 1999, Larson, who is not a physician, unlawfully obtained the DEA license number of Dr. David Bruce Larson, formerly of Rockville, Maryland. During the next two years, the defendant created more than 150 false prescriptions to illegally obtain Oxycodone, Hydrocodone and other medications from several area pharmacies. The prescriptions were in the names of several individuals. On several occasions, the defendant directed at least one other individual to have Oxycodone and Hydrocodone prescriptions filled and then to provide him with approximately 75% of the pills. In some instances, the defendant paid the insurance co-payments so that prescriptions would be filled.

During the period of 2000-2002, the defendant used his computer to access the Internet website for the Maryland Board of Physician Quality Assurance, where he obtained information about Dr. David Bruce Larson and Dr. David Mark Larson of Florida. The defendant then contacted the Maryland Board of Physician Quality Assurance and misrepresented to them that he was Dr. David Mark Larson so that he could obtain a Maryland drug control license to distribute controlled substances. After obtaining this state drug license, the defendant also fraudulently used Dr. David Mark Larson's personal information (date of birth, social security number and education credentials) to misrepresent to the DEA that he was a licensed physician, thereby enabling him to unlawfully obtain a DEA license to dispense controlled substances.

Thereafter, the defendant also used Dr. David Mark Larson's information to attempt to obtain credit cards to purchase more than \$45,000 worth of computer equipment, groceries and to pay the real estate taxes for his residence.

This case was investigated by the Montgomery County Police and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Criminal Investigations, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Gina L. Simms.